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COUNTRY USSR			
SUBJECT Port Information; Batumi		DATE DISTRIBUTED 17 APR 56	
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		SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #	

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THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CIA FOR IAC DISSEMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3 c OF NSCID #7 (DIO, 8ND No 68-56).

1.
2. Alphabetical Designators In connection with information contained herein, specific points of interest are noted and referred to in this report by the following alphabetical designators:

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- A. Outer port anchorage; pilot aboard, arriving
- B. Pilot discharged, departing
- C. Antisubmarine net
- D. Radio beacon
- E. Berth
- F. Area of housing construction
- G. Fishing boats under construction
- H. MT VAV (NO)
- I. Passenger vessel of Soviet registry, identified as ex-PATRIA (ON)
- J. Freighter, about four thousand gross tons
- K.
- L. Petroleum loading area; no vessels present
- M. Agent's office
- N. Seamen's club
- O. Sand beach
- P. Children's wading beach

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General navigational aspects of subject port were commented upon as "very much the same since 1932,"

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Position of an antisubmarine net is indicated by designator C; eastern portion of the net appeared to be permanently anchored, and closure portion of the net extends outward from the west side of harbor entrance, as shown. Location and activity of radio beacon, designator D, as shown on chart

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characteristics of light at the same location were not noted. Vessel radioted 24 hours in advance of arrival, encountered no difficulty or unusual conditions during arrival and departure subject port, and did not require the services of a tug at any time. Weather was "about average for the season," and no unusual weather conditions were recorded by vessel. Pilot boarded and departed vessel as noted in schedule above; pilot was an experienced "old-timer," and pilotage was satisfactory.

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4. Anchorage Vessel anchored at position indicated by designator A, as noted in paragraph 3; water depths and bottom composition in this outer port anchorage area are as shown and listed in other widely available charts and publications. water depths in area from Protecting Mole and easterly along shore line for an unknown distance beyond mouth of River Bartakhana (shown on chart) out to the vicinity of the five-fathom curve (south and east of anchorage area, designator A) are about 10° to 12° less than fathom soundings shown on chart; the area described above is shoaling and filling due to the action of the River Bartakhana.

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5. Harbor No additional data.

6. Controls Vessel was boarded by control parties subsequent to arrival at berth and just prior to departure. Boarding party on arrival consisted of four men and one woman, as follows: two "police" (males), armed with pistols; one customs representative (male); one "radio" specialist, otherwise unidentified (male); one "Health Department" representative (female). Vessel was not searched; control party confined boarding activities to checking vessel documents, crew's papers and seaman's books--which were taken ashore and "examined" prior to issuance of shore passes, and sealing certain items aboard vessel. Items sealed consisted of vessel's radio room and personal cameras only; no stores of cigarettes or liquor were sealed. Vessel was also required to submit a list of all personal funds and ship's funds present on board. Surveillance at berth was accorded by one armed guard who was stationed at gangway and who checked passes and identification of all persons coming aboard or departing vessel. Vessel personnel did not note presence of surveillance craft during arrival or departure.

7. Harbor Craft Tugs: Three "large" tugs, probably capable of open-sea employment, and an unidentified number of small harbor tugs were present during dates of call. Fishing craft: a considerable number of fishing boats operating out of subject port harbor and fishing in nearby coastal waters; size of these craft ranged from roughly 30° to 40° motor trawlers to small rowboats, all apparently of wooden construction; numbers of each type or total number of fishing boats present could not be estimated by source. "Guard boats": a few motor launches, of a type described as similar

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to US Coast Guard 40' motor launches, were present in vicinity of subject port harbor; these craft appeared to be employed as "guard boats" over fishing craft and frequently accompanied certain fishing boats to unloading docks in harbor in order to supervise discharge of a "good catch."

8. Berth Vessel lifted spindle oil cargo at berth indicated by designator E; berth was [redacted] apparently unchanged since 1932. Berth at which vessel lifted cargo and other berths nearby at Neftyanoy Mole have both described in previous reports on this port [redacted]

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9. Construction Area indicated by designator F was [redacted] location of a housing project; area appeared to have been a run-down or "slum" area, probably as a result of previous war damage. Rebuilding and new construction work observed during dates of visit was concerned with two-story structures which appeared suitable for use as apartment-type housing and office space.

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10. [redacted]

11. Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Area indicated by designator G was [redacted] the site of considerable boat-building activity; boats under construction appeared to be fishing craft of all types, all of wooden construction.

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This area was further described as "not a shipyard" in the usual sense of the term, and no major equipment or facilities were observed.

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12. Petroleum [redacted]

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[redacted] Berth at designator E, is noted in paragraph 8.

13. [redacted]

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14. Coasting Harbor [redacted] Coasting Harbor, inshore to southeast of Protecting Mole, is not in use and [redacted] Protecting Mole is "mostly destroyed." The Coasting Harbor area is filling and shoaling as noted in paragraph 4.

15. Naval Vessels [redacted]

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"guard boats" noted in paragraph 7. Indication of possible naval exercises or preparedness exists in the form of antishubmarine net, designator G, which was noted in paragraph 3; net appeared to be in good condition and operative.

16. Merchant Shipping Designator H indicates location at berth of MT VAV (NO), observed to be loading cargo; the VAV was the only other tanker in subject port [redacted] and entire petroleum loading area, designator L, was specifically observed to have no vessels moored alongside. Designator I indicates location at berth of a passenger vessel of Soviet registry [redacted] as the ex-PATRIA (GN); this vessel was present during dates of visit. Designator J indicates location at berth of a merchant freighter of about four thousand gross tons [redacted] which discharged coal and loaded pitch or asphalt. Designator K indicates location at berth of a merchant freighter [redacted]

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17. Miscellaneous [redacted] numerous single flights of aircraft [redacted] tentatively identified as MIG jet fighter types; schedules, courses, and activity of such flights appeared to fit no consistent pattern, and total number of aircraft observed could not be estimated. Other miscellaneous information concerning subject port, observed during dates of call, included:

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location of building housing offices of INFLOT agency -- indicated by designator M; location of Seamen's Club -- indicated by designator N; sand beach, used in season as swimming area and described as suitable for conducting amphibious assault training exercises -- designator O; children's wading beach area -- designator P.

[Comment] Attention is invited to reported absence of naval vessels, general inactivity of petroleum loading facilities, construction of fishing boats, and data on Coasting Harbor.] 25X1

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